

Major League Magnates Meet For Further Discussion of Plans For Coming Season

MURPHY'S REFORMS PASS OVER JOHNSON

Berates Him for Indifference to Plans of Changing Rules.

NATIONAL LEAGUE MEETS IN NEW YORK

American Magnate Serene in Spite of Chance for a Big Rumpus.

The vernal volubility of Charles Webb Murphy, as heard previous to the spring meeting of the National League in New York today, was filled with chiding for Ben Johnson.

Murphy confided to a hundred reporters in the strictest confidence that his mind bulged with reforms for the great pastime, and that they would surely become law, but for the cold indifference of Mr. Johnson. Murphy announced that one of his burning reforms is a rule to prevent coaches seizing a runner who has overstepped a base and casting him back like a bag of oats. Mr. Murphy would have the coaches prohibited from touching the runner at all.

But Mr. Johnson failed to name a rules committee to attend a joint conference, with the result that there can be no tinkering with the rules. Whereat Murphy rages and declares that Johnson has violated the national agreement. Johnson, who is busily engaged in Chicago with his own baseball organization, and his own business, smiles in serene ignorance of the Murphy trade, and calmly awaits the action of his colleagues that may give him a large addition to his already pithy salary.

It is not at all likely that Murphy will be able to start a rumpus between the two major leagues, not even for the publicity there would be in it for him. But, should he manage to stir up strife over his great reforms, he would doubtless do as he has in the past—lay down his pair of deers when called and murmur "That's good."

As a wearer of ornate vests, Murphy is a glittering success and trots in the same class with "Little Tim" Woodruff, but as a baseball proposition, he is not taken too seriously.

There is one rule that a lot of men who are entitled to respectful consideration insist should be changed, and that is the provision referring to earned runs. Frank Richter declares the earned run should be restored, as it is the most faithful index of the effectiveness of the pitcher, and the only method of determining the merits of the slab men. It is also suggested that bases on balls, wild pitches and any misplay by the pitcher that gives a man first base or advances a runner, should be included in calculating the earned run.

There is truth in the assertion, and if the earned run were again in force, the season's records would be quite different from what they are under the present scoring plan. A pitcher like Walter Johnson would shine if earned runs were scored.

From Hot Springs, where a squad of the Nationals are trying to combine baseball and snow, with the boys on the snow, is waited the information that Captain McBride, being unable to obtain sufficient snow, has cleared off the diamond at Majestic Park, organized an alpine club among his men and started to climb the mountains in that vicinity. He said, though, that would be fine exercise for the boys, and would serve to put their wind in good condition.

Germany Schaefer did some fine yodling when he first began to climb, but he soon found that he required all his breath for the exercise.

Captain McBride said it would be three or four days before he puts his men in uniform, and that they will remain there for three weeks, they would have plenty of time.

Frank Farrell intends to give the Yankees a half-million-dollar park to play on by July 4, at Broadway and 22nd street, and, according to the plans and specifications, it should prove to be one of the finest ball grounds ever laid out. It was not so many years ago that the National League's largest club, the New York Giants, had to play on a lot on Manhattan island to lay out one for Farrell.

Baseball Candidates Strong At Brookland

The largest list of candidates that ever reported for a Catholic University baseball team handed in their names to Manager Daly today.

Although the weather was such as to warrant the men tossing the ball around in the open, still Coach Noonan rescinded his previous order for the men to do outside work.

The pitching staff at the university this season will present a much more formidable appearance than ever before. "Chief" Greene, who practically was the whole pitching staff last year, will now have men on whom he can rely in the event of worse coming to worse. Ryan, a newcomer at the university, has seen service in the high schools of Burlington, Vt., and from all reports is a twister of no mean ability. His best performance last season was against the strong University of Vermont team, when he held the into a few scattered hits, although losing the game.

Among the pitchers who have reported so far, are Green, Greer, Clarence Hatcher, Ryan, Furey and Kummer. Nearly all of these men have had wide experience in high school college baseball, and should help the "Red and Black" greatly against the many strong contenders that will appear on University Field this season.

The catching staff, which was limited to two candidates yesterday, has been augmented by the appearance of four new men. Fagan, Valade, Heiderdorfer and Edlancy are the new men who have come out to understudy McDonnell and Zachary. Valade caught on the Reserves last year and should have acquired enough knowledge of the art of backstopping to warrant his appearance in a few of the minor games.

The big first baseman, Lambert, who held down the same position on Rock Hill second team last year, will try out for the initial sack on the university team, and should make some of the other candidates hustle. Dutch Hessler and Hackman are the other contenders for the rest base position.

Some of the Georgetown Baseball Candidates Who Are Trying for Battery Positions

DAVE WHITE.



HARRY DAVIS.



CHARLES O'CONOR.



CAPT. "BILLY" SITTERDING.

BOB THAYER'S SPORTING GOSSIP

"EVERY KNOCK IS A BOOST."

Walsh in town.

George Walsh, the Georgetown football player, was an early caller today to deny the report printed this morning that he has quit the university. It was said that Walsh had gone to Europe with Willie Hoppe, his brother-in-law, and would not return until next year. Walsh will rejoin the track squad tomorrow, but hopes to spend a part of next summer touring on the continent.

Joyce investigates.

Prof. Maurice Joyce, of Carroll Institute, is making a thorough investigation of charges of professionalism against two wrestlers from Baltimore who are anxious to compete in the South Atlantic Association of the A. U.

There is no sport which has to be watched more closely than grappling, and Prof. Joyce assures me that there will be no scandal creeping in as long as he is chairman of the committee.

Cathedral has winner.

The basketball teams of the colleges and clubs of Washington are given so much notice that an unusually clever showing by a school quint is often overlooked.

This is the case with the team representing the National Cathedral School this winter. Although a comparatively newcomer in scholastic sport, the Wisconsin avenue boys have developed until they have practically completed their campaign without a defeat. The individual play is good, and Coach Green has the five working together so well that the other teams here find it impossible to stop Cathedral.

Yesterday they won from Western High, and before the end of the week will play Business and Eastern.

Greek wrestlers here.

Among my callers yesterday were a pair of wrestlers who style themselves "The Greek Lions." They are Jim Prokos and John Paul, who have recently come to Washington and are willing to wrestle Joe Turner, Rob Roy Mooney, or Frank Lynch.

They are willing to make a reasonable

division of the receipts and will bet \$100 dollars on their chances against any of the three professionals.

Question of authority.

From what I can learn from those in authority all this talk about conflict in authority between the captains and coaches at Georgetown is about as serious as a typhoon in a water bucket. It has always been an unwritten law that a coach is master of the situation. The idea is that a man of years and experience as a competitor and later as a coach has far better knowledge and more reliable judgment than a young captain who must worry first of all over his own training, and to whom the development of a team must necessarily be a secondary consideration.

There is nothing more essential to successful sport than absolute discipline. The control which Courtney, Murphy, and others have at other places is the same that has always been insisted upon by successful coaches like Pat Dempsey and Jim Sprigman, and I would be greatly surprised if Bill Foley would ever allow his decisions to be overthrown by favoritism or any other evil.

To attempt to disparage Foley's ability would be a reflection upon the men who chose him to rehabilitate Georgetown on the field and track. It was Foley who organized track athletics at Georgetown years ago, and in a comparatively few seasons brought the teams to such a condition that they were dangerous rivals for any of the largest university squads. Well stocked trophy cases at Central High School are silent testimony to the consistent success of Foley's proteges against the best scholastic teams in the East.

Brown a grand athlete.

The Annapolis authorities are making no mistake in having "Big" Brown, the football player who was mentioned in the All-American eleven, join the crew squad.

Brown, who is still comparatively a boy, is a fine type of athlete and handles himself so well that he should have no trouble in mastering the technique of the stroke which the middles row. He is now No. 7 in his class crew, but should be able to work himself up speedily until he has one of the varsity seats.

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TECH IS HAMPERED BY NEED OF SPACE

Track Work Likely to Be Abandoned Until Men Can Get Out.

Inability to find a place to train suitably may cause Technical High School to practically abandon track work until the athletes can get out of doors. There has been little or no opportunity to develop a track team this season, owing to the fact that the athletes have no training quarters. The third-floor corridor was at first used, but the hard floor precluded any possibility of satisfactory results, and the athletes used the training quarters of George Washington on New York avenue. Now that these have been given up the squad is at a loss to know what to do.

Captain Edward Thrall has called a meeting for this afternoon, at which the situation will be gone over. It is thought Tech may enter men in individual events and allow them to train individually until the spring allows the team to get together. Several members of the team belong to the Y. M. C. A. and may be asked to do their training there.

Coach Mulligan will be present this afternoon to talk over the matter and may present a solution. No athletes were entered in the Baltimore meet, and it is more than likely that the Georgetown meet will find few entries. General regret has been shown at the school over the inability of the track team to do much in the last few years, but the lack of a gym has done much to hold the Machinists back.

Chattanooga Gets Cuban. MEMPHIS, Tenn., Feb. 14.—Outfielder Viola, a native Cuban, who has made good in the minor leagues of the Southern States, has been awarded to Chattanooga, Tenn., in the Western, claimed him.



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calls for a cool head, steady nerves and a willingness to endure the sting of the winter wind.

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